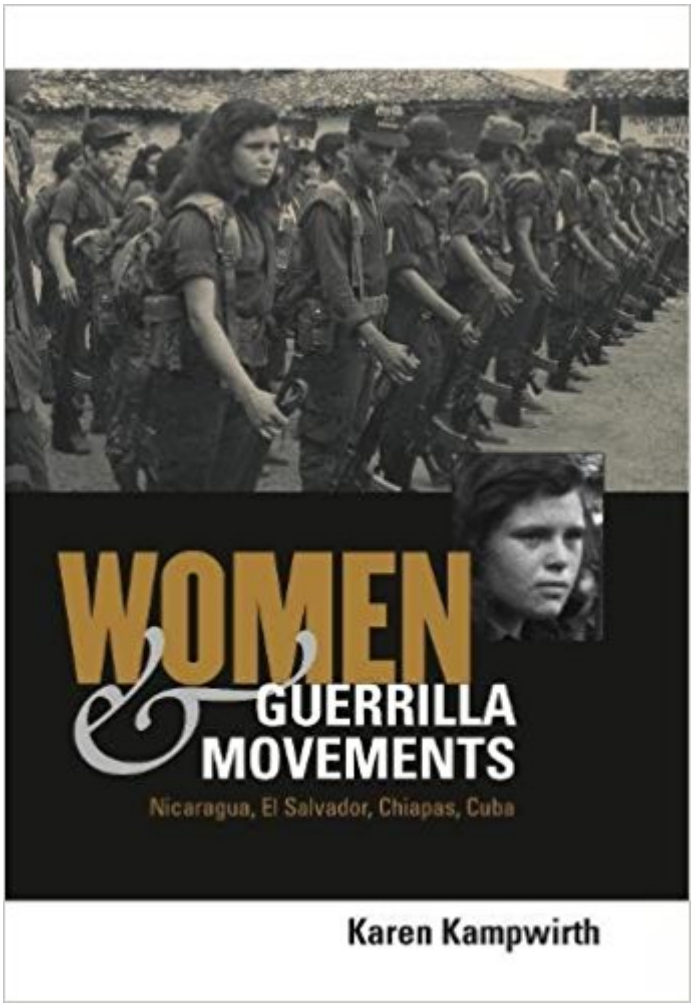
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Women & Guerrilla Movements: Nicaragua, El Salvador, Chiapas, Cuba



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Synopsis

The revolutionary movements that emerged frequently in Latin America over the past century promoted goals that included overturning dictatorships, confronting economic inequalities, and creating what Cuban revolutionary hero Che Guevara called the "new man." But in fact, many of the "new men" who participated in these movements were not men. Thousands of them were women. This book aims to show why a full understanding of revolutions needs to take account of gender. Karen Kampwirth writes here about the women who joined the revolutionary movements in Nicaragua, El Salvador, and the Mexican state of Chiapas, about how they became guerrillas, and how that experience changed their lives. In the last chapter she compares what happened in these countries with Cuba in the 1950s, where few women participated in the guerrilla struggle. Drawing on more than two hundred interviews, Kampwirth examines the political, structural, ideological, and personal factors that allowed many women to escape from the constraints of their traditional roles and led some to participate in guerrilla activities. Her emphasis on the experiences of revolutionaries adds a new dimension to the study of revolution, which has focused mainly on explaining how states are overthrown.

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Customer Reviews

Karen Kampwirth has here made a fundamental contribution to the literature on revolutions, weaving together structural political economy and personal stories in a provocative, soundly argued way. The stories are fascinating and gripping, the ideas striking and powerful, the writing highly engaging. The theoretical framework, based on a combination of structural and personal factors, is

wise, inventive, and sound, and is tested with some very original and hard-to-get empirical data from four cases Nicaragua, El Salvador, Cuba, and Chiapas. It will be widely seen as the essential work on the increasingly studied topic of women and revolution. --John Foran, University of California, Santa BarbaraThis is an intelligent and well-researched book essential reading for helping academics and practitioners think through the complexities of women s lives during and after revolutions. Kampwirth s book will chart a new course for us to study women as individuals, not just as a group, with regard to political and social revolutions. A book that superbly captures the real lives of women revolutionaries without over-romanticizing the revolutions or the roles of women. --Tracy Fitzsimmons, Shenandoah UniversityThis is an intelligent and well-researched book essential reading for helping academics and practitioners think through the complexities of women s lives during and after revolutions. Kampwirth s book will chart a new course for us to study women as individuals, not just as a group, with regard to political and social revolutions. A book that superbly captures the real lives of women revolutionaries without over-romanticizing the revolutions or the roles of women. --Tracy Fitzsimmons, Shenandoah University

Karen Kampwirth is Associate Professor of Political Science and Chair of the Latin American Studies Program at Knox College. She is co-editor of Radical Women in Latin America (Penn State, 2001).

The text shows the results of 10 years research onsite in those countries mentioned in the title. Kampwirth provides an account of an underappreciated aspect of the guerrillas. The significant involvement of women at many levels of the movements. She was able to interview women who had been active participants, since the events covered were as recent as the 1970s. While in fact most of the struggles happened in the 1980s.For future historians, this book will be valuable as original source material. It may well be that the definitive assessment of the turbulant events of the 1980s and 1990s has yet to be written. We are still too close. The problem is that by the time that assessment happens, many of the participants will likely be dead. And the dominant documentation thus far existing focuses on the top level commanders, who are mostly male.

It is a wonderful book, and I have had it for months. I would further recommend it to anyone!!!!!

Contrary to ’s website (and despite my repeated requests for correction), Women and Guerrilla Movements is not "out of print," in fact it is widely available and has sold well, perhaps because it

has always been reviewed very positively by others. failed to restock Women and Guerrilla Movements at the time it went into paperback but it is available in the paperback edition from all other major booksellers. It would be nice if would use the accurate phrase "out of stock" instead of the inaccurate phrase "out of print." It would be even nicer if would also restock the book.

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